

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in Knox Creek and Pawpaw Creek in Hurley, Virginia

PUBLIC MEETING: Hurley Elementary and Middle School in Hurley, Virginia, on February 6, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If schools are closed due to inclement weather check the DEQ website for a rescheduled date.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing the start of a study to restore water quality, a public comment opportunity, and public meeting

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of pollutants affecting the aquatic organisms and sources of bacteria contamination in the waters of Knox Creek. DEQ is also working to identify the pollutant impacting aquatic organisms in Pawpaw Creek. These two streams flow through Buchanan County Virginia near Hurley.

The Knox Creek "impaired" stream segment includes the entire stream length in Virginia, from its headwaters to the Kentucky State Line. This segment is approximately 16.9 miles long. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms and failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform bacteria violations.

Pawpaw Creek is impaired from the Kentucky State Line to its confluence with Knox Creek, about 4.5 miles of stream reach. This stream is impaired due to failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms only.

The study reports the pollutants impairing the aquatic community and recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. The study also presents the sources of bacteria contamination and a TMDL for bacteria. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes a public comment period, including public meetings. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, February 6, 2006 to March 7, 2006. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available after January 9, 2006 from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Nancy T. Norton, P.E. – Regional TMDL Coordinator

Address: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality-Southwest Regional Office, 355 Deadmore Street,
P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia, 24212-1688

Phone: (276) 676-4807 E-mail: ntnorton@deq.virginia.gov Fax: (276) 676-4899